Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 05474 050023Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 PC-01 /058 W
----------106829 050028Z /20
O R 042351Z
FM AEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9025
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5474

BOGOTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT: EC
SUBJECT: ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL MAY BE HEEDING PUBLIC OUTCRY ON VOTE COUNT

REF: (A) QUITO 5434; (B) QUITO 5356

1. THE INTENSE POLITICAL PRESSURE WHICH HAS BUILT UP IN ECUADOR DURING THE FIRST DAYS OF THE WEEK OF JULY 30-AUGUST 5, BEGAN TO ABATE ON AUGUST 3. PRESSURE BEGAN TO BUILD WITH RAFAEL ARIZAGA'S JULY 28 STATEMENT THAT VOTE COUNT IRREGULARITIES MADE PUBLIC BY THAT DATE WERE SIMPLY A "PALLID REFLECTION" OF WHAT WAS TO COME, AND BUILT TO A PEAK WITH THE NULLIFICATION BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL (SET) OF THE ENTIRE VOTE OF COTOPAXI PROVINCE. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS FILLED WITH RUMORS, MOST OF THEM TO THE EFFECT THAT THE RETORNO PROCESS WOULD BE CAST ASIDE.

2. SET PRESIDENT BAQUERO DE LA CALLE MOVED TO EASE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 05474 050023Z

TENSIONS ON AUGUST 2 WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THAT NEW ELECTIONS WOULD BE CALLED IN THOSE PRECINCTS WHERE VOTES WERE VOIDED, IF THAT IS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST ROUND. BAQUERO'S STATEMENT OPENED THE POSSIBILITY THAT VOTING IRREGULARITIES COULD BE DEALT WITH LESS DRASTICALLY THAN BY VOIDING THE ENTIRE ELECTION.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

BAQUERO MOVED AGAIN TO COOL EMOTIONS WITH A STATEMENT ON AUGUST 3 CALLING FOR COOL-HEADEDNESS AND TRANQUILITY ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC. HE PROMISED THAT THE SET WOULD CONTINUE WITH ITS DUTIES IN A SERIOUS AND POSITIVE MANNER. IN FACT, THE SET RETURNED TO WORK ON AUGUST 3, AFTER TWO DAYS SPENT DISCUSSING THE COTOPAXI RESULT, TO CONSIDER THE VOTES OF MANABI PROVINCE, A PROCESS WHICH CONTINUED SMOOTHLY ON AUGUST 4. ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS REPORT, THE SET EVEN AGREED TO RECONSIDER THE SITUATION IN COTOPAXI WITH AN EYE TO RESCINDING THE NULLIFICATION OF THE VOTES FROM THAT PROVINCE.

3. BY AUGUST 3 PUBLIC INDIGNATION WAS HIGH. NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS AND COLUMNISTS FOR THREE STRAIGHT DAYS HAD ATTACKED THE SET AND RUMORED PLOTTING TO THWART THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. INCREASING NUMBERS OF POLITICAL AND PUBLIC FIGURES WERE ACKNOWLEDGING BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT THE COUNTRY MUST MOVE FORWARD WITH THE RETORNO, BOTH TO INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY AND TO SALVAGE ITS REPUTATION INTERNATIONALLY. A NUMBER OF FIGURES WHO COULD BE EXPECTED TO STRONGLY OPPOSE A JAIME ROLDOS PRESIDENCY, AMONG THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY HEAD RAFAEL ARMIJOS, DECLARED PUBLICLY THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE RETORNO PROCESS. OTHER LEADERS HAVE EXPRESSED THE SAME OPINION TO THE AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS IN A NUMBER OF PRIVATE MEETINGS OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS. INCLUDED IN THAT LIST ARE THE CARDINAL ARCHBISHIP OF QUITO, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, EX-PRESIDENT
CONFIDENTIAL

GALO PLAZA AND A NUMBER OF RESPECTED POLITICIANS.

4. COMMENT: THE FATE OF THE RETORNO PROCESS REMAINS IN QUESTION. NOTHING HAS BEEN RESOLVED IN THE LAST TWO DAYS, ALTHOUGH IT DOES APPEAR THAT PUBLIC REACTION AND OTHER PRESSURES MAY BE CAUSING SOME SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT NULLIFICATIONS. SERIOUS PROBLEMS, SUCH AS THE RUMORED MASSIVE IRREGULARITIES IN GUAYAS PROVINCE, STILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MUCH PULBIC SENTIMENT WILL INFLUENCE CIVILIAN MANIPULATORS AND MILITARY HARD-LINERS.
GONZALEZ

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTED ELECTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978QUITO05474
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780320-0172
Format: TEL
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808115/aaaafnnd.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: b7c4f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 QUITO 5434, 78 QUITO 5356
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1584676
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970825
Subject: ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL MAY BE HEEDING PUBLIC OUTCRY ON VOTE COUNT
TAGS: PINT, EC
To: BOGOTA STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b7c4f759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014